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THE LATE DR. BELDEN.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE loss which a community sustains in the death of an intelligent and beloved physician, is severe, and often irreparable—not so much that one of equal skill cannot be substituted, as that the confidence reposed in the *one* cannot immediately be transferred to the *other*. Such a physician is not only the medical adviser, but often, also, the friend and confidant of the sick; he sympathizes with them in their sufferings, enters into all their feelings, and is a comforter in all their trials. His presence and encouragement are often as beneficial as the medicine which he prescribes. When death removes him, they feel that their security is gone; that life is less valuable, because more uncertain and because one of the sources of enjoyment is removed; and that a severe trial awaits them in selecting another in whose knowledge and judgment they can place the same confidence, and on whose integrity and friendship they can as safely rely.

These reflections have been awakened by the wide-spread sorrow and lamentation occasioned by the death of that excellent man and estimable physician, Dr. Lemuel W. Belden, of Springfield, Mass., who recently fell a victim to the malignant typhous fever, which has prevailed somewhat extensively in that vicinity.

Dr. Belden was a native of Wethersfield, Conn., son of Dr. Joshua Belden, a respectable physician and most valuable man, who died of the epidemic spotted fever in June, 1808, in the midst of life and in the full vigor of usefulness. Lemuel Whittlesey Belden, M.D., the subject of this memoir, was born September, 1801, and was left an orphan, with three younger brothers, in the care of a discreet and sensible mother, at the early age of seven years. Every care was given to his early education which a mother could bestow and faithful and well qualified teachers could render, and at the age of sixteen he entered the Freshman class of Yale College, September, 1817.

During his minority, before and after he entered college, young Belden was a modest, reserved youth, fond of his books, which had greater attractions for him at this early age than the sports and amusements of his associates. The traits of character most prominent in his childhood, were *love of truth*, *sobriety* and *consistency of conduct*, and these were no less conspicuous in all his after life. His reputation in college was always good, both for diligence as a scholar and for exemplary and

discreet deportment. If he did not acquire as rapidly as some others, he was always prepared for what was expected of him, always ready, and acquitted himself with honor. He was scrupulously regardful of all college duties, was never absent from prayers, and rarely, if ever, from recitations, during the whole of his college life. One of his most respectable classmates and constant friends, writes thus of him: "He was a diligent student; I think peculiarly so. It was evident that he never lost sight of the object for which he came there, and he attended to every study prescribed, with steady perseverance. I can look back now and see evidence of maturity and soundness of judgment in this respect, which was uncommon at that age. His college course did not present much of incident, as it partook of the stability and steady attention to the object for which he came, which was afterwards so prominent a trait of his character. The loss of his sound judgment and growing attainments to the medical profession, you can appreciate better than I can."

He received the honors of college at his graduation, and the part assigned him on this occasion shows the estimation with which he was regarded by the authorities of the University, placing him among the most distinguished scholars of his class. After obtaining his first degree, in September, 1821, he took charge of a respectable academy in New Canaan, in his native State, where he continued two years, a very acceptable teacher. In the autumn of 1823 he relinquished this employment, and commenced the study of medicine with Dr. Woodward, then of Wethersfield, his native town, now the superintendent of the State Lunatic Hospital, Worcester, Mass. As a student of medicine he was a close applicant and made rapid proficiency; he availed himself of every means of acquiring professional knowledge; he was not only a diligent scholar, but was careful to watch the progress of such cases of disease as he could witness in a circuit of extensive country practice.

His first course of medical lectures was attended in Boston, in the winter of 1825. The succeeding spring and summer he spent with his former preceptor, and devoted much time in visiting the sick, to ascertain the character and progress of disease. The following winter was spent in New Haven, attending the medical lectures in Yale College. In March, 1826, he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine. In both these institutions he obtained a high reputation as a scholar, and at his graduation he acquitted himself so well as to take the very first rank in his class.

Returning from college, he again entered the office of Dr. Woodward as assistant in his practice, where he continued more than a year, attending extensively to the sick, and teaching the preliminary branches of study to a class of medical students. During this long intercourse a warm friendship was formed between the preceptor and pupil, which continued till his death.

Dr. Belden pursued the study of his profession with the ardor of a scholar and the spirit of a philanthropist. He loved his profession because he considered it honorable and useful; he felt the responsibility that awaited him, and he was too conscientious to commence the practice

of it without a thorough knowledge of its principles, and a faithful improvement of all his advantages for clinical knowledge and experience.

In the autumn of 1827 he took up his residence in Springfield, where he soon gained a respectable practice, and became the favorite physician of many of the best families in the town.

Dr. Belden had none of those shining qualities which commend themselves at first sight to the fancy of the many; he was not destined to be the popular man. He was peculiarly diffident and retiring; his manners were simple, but his deportment was dignified and reserved. He could obtain friends and business only by substantial merit. His success was not rapid, but permanent; those who once employed him rarely failed to adhere to him; the more extensive their acquaintance, the more they respected and loved him. To many he was the "beloved physician," rendered no less so by the amiable qualities of his heart, his upright and honorable deportment amongst men, than by his sagacity and tact as a physician. He made no bustle in his business, and no display in the community in which he resided; but now that he is dead, they will realize that a man is gone from amongst them, whose influence, though quiet and gentle as the evening zephyr, has been wide and salutary, diffusing intellectual light and moral beauty wherever it was felt and known; that a physician has departed from their midst, in whose skill there was safety, in whose integrity there was confidence, in whose character there was rectitude unwavering, and in whose countenance ever beamed benevolence and philanthropy.

Unlike many young men, Dr. Belden continued the habits of study through life, which he had early formed. In the intervals of his business he was rarely found absent from his "study." Here he applied himself closely to professional reading, literature, and general intelligence. He was a thorough scholar, the *last* as well as the first year of his professional life. The readers of your Journal cannot have forgotten his lucid history of the case of Jane C. Rider, well known as the "Springfield Somnambulist," which occupied two weekly numbers of your periodical, and detailed, with great accuracy and precision, the wonderful phenomena of that remarkable case. This, with a popular work, published somewhat previously, on the same subject, constitute all the writings from his pen which have been given to the public. There are many things, however, in manuscript, which show his diligence in recording facts, no less than his ardor in the pursuit of knowledge.

During the last year Dr. Belden had interested himself in effecting a change in the Medical Society of this State. At their annual meeting in the spring he presented his views to the Society in person, in so clear and perspicuous a manner as to induce those present to consider the subject seriously. A large and respectable committee was appointed to act upon it, of which Dr. Belden was a member. Their report is just published, which recommends such changes as to meet the views of all who have interested themselves in it, retaining many of the old, and adopting some of the new principles proposed by their author.

Dr. Belden was married in May, 1829, to Miss Catharine Chester, daughter of Stephen Chester, Esq., late Sheriff of the County of

Hartford, Conn.—an amiable and accomplished lady, who survives him to mourn the loss of one of the best of husbands and kindest and most indulgent of men. He left no children; having lost an only son in early childhood.

Few men are better situated to enjoy life than was Dr. Belden at the time of the attack of this fatal disease. His domestic relation was peculiarly felicitous; he was in the midst of an intelligent and enterprising population, who justly appreciated his medical attainments and moral worth. Beloved by his friends, respected by all who knew him, rising in reputation in his profession by the surest of all means, knowledge of his business and devotion to his patients, he had gained a character of sterling value in an extensive circle of practice. In the midst of this prosperity came the withering hand of disease and cut him off.

The fever which terminated his life was mild in its apparent character, but lurking mischief was undermining the "issues of life." He went through the regular stages of disease, and was supposed to be slowly convalescing by himself and his medical friends. Strength and appetite had returned; he was able to walk to his favorite "study," where was the field of his most interesting pursuits. But these favorable appearances were delusive; fatal disease was preying upon him; a sudden hemorrhage sunk him rapidly, no remedies arrested its progress, and he died in a few hours after the first apprehension of danger. His preparation for the fatal event, with a full knowledge of its approach, was as calm as if he had been preparing for a journey, or the reception of his friends. He made his will, gave directions about his property, resigned himself to the will of his Heavenly Father, and awaited the event in quiet submission. In this trying situation, with his friends weeping around him, he never lost his self-possession; his sedate and dignified deportment was the same in death as in life. He finished what was necessary for him to do, took leave of his friends, and expired. A friend who witnessed his calm departure, thus writes: "I have thought of you as one whom he loved and venerated; as one with whom he was so intimately associated during a portion of his life, that your opportunities of knowing him were greater than most of his friends possessed. I have longed to see you and to talk with you of the heavenly calm which marked the closing hours of his life, and the truly Christian preparation which was so distinctly manifested in his life and conversation. I have longed to hear from your own lips the tribute which I know you would pay to the worth of his intellect and heart. I am sure of your sympathy, for I know how you must have valued the friend we have lost."

Of the character of Dr. Belden we may justly say it had no shades, no dark spots which his friends would desire to conceal or remove, no eccentricity which gave it the slightest singularity. From his childhood he loved truth, simplicity and virtue, and these were his eminent qualities. His well-balanced mind led him to right views of every subject; he discriminated well, and judged correctly. His acute moral sense kept him in the strictest path of rectitude. A motive to do wrong never actuated him for a moment; his integrity was above suspicion.

His mind was more distinguished for solid than for brilliant traits; he had no dazzling qualities. He loved to investigate the truths of science and philosophy. His knowledge was of the substantial kind; he made no display of it, but it came to his aid when and where he needed it. As a physician he had few equals of his age. He was a ripe scholar in the principles of his profession, and he made the best use of his experience. His Index Rerum shows how careful he was to note facts and references, and what stores of medical knowledge he was amassing. He was useful no less as a scholar than as a physician, and he was preparing for still greater usefulness and distinction.

How desirable that such a man should live! And now that he is gone, how desirable it is to the living, as well as to the dead, that he was such a man. A long and intimate acquaintance with him left us ignorant of his faults; if his character had blemishes, they were invisible, surrounded and swallowed up as they were in estimable and amiable qualities. We love to contemplate the man, to look upon one so pure and blameless in life, fulfilling the relations of son, husband and father, brother and friend, in a manner so acceptable to all. His life was exemplary and well spent, his death a calm and dignified departure from scenes less congenial to his pure spirit, to the blessed fruition of a heavenly inheritance prepared by his Redeemer above.

His loss is great to us all; to his family and relatives irreparable; but hardly less deeply to be felt by that circle of friends whose physician he was, whose affections he had secured, and who on every return of affliction and suffering will lament, with renewed sorrow, his premature departure.

December, 1839.

THE NATURAL FOOD OF MAN.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Sir,—Your correspondent, in No. 12 of Vol. XIX., attempts to show that man has no natural food, either of one kind or another. The argument drawn from his structure, he rejects, as having little bearing on the question. Those who know with what tenacity this argument was always seized and used as long as it was supposed to favor flesh eating —as long, I mean, as it was said, triumphantly, that the human teeth and intestines favored a mixed diet—may be a little surprised at this. Not so, however, when they know the cause. Not so when they know that it is at length conceded by scientific naturalists, no less than by anatomists, that the teeth and intestines are formed for masticating farinaceous vegetables and fruits.

But your correspondent, sure, perhaps, of the sympathies of those young physicians who do not read, and a few individuals of other professions or occupations whose reading is at best very superficial, braves it out, in spite of concession or argument, that man has no natural food. "Is man hungry?" he asks. "He calls upon nature, and she presents him with a stone. She furnishes nothing calculated to satisfy the

cravings of appetite. Our food, in the state in which it first comes to our hands, is not suitable for nourishment. Our organs can find no nutriment in it. They reject it."

Will this writer set himself above Baron Cuvier, who has been styled the prince of naturalists? Will he be thought wiser than the wisest? I do not claim infallibility for Cuvier; but will *youth* set up a claim for that which is not claimed for age? But does not Cuvier acknowledge, expressly, that the structure of the human frame is that of an animal fitted to a pure vegetable diet? Admitting superior wisdom to youth, even, and to New England youth in particular, does not Dr. Bell, the distinguished though youthful Superintendent of the McLean Insane Hospital at Charlestown, Mass., make the same concession? But can we be said to have our system adapted to a particular sort of food, and yet have no natural food? Would not this involve a contradiction in terms?

Your correspondent says, that as our food first comes to our hands, our organs can find no nutriment in it. But is it so? Have savages so often, then, and in some instances so long, fed exclusively on raw flesh,—wild animals, fish, shell fish, &c.—and yet derived no nutriment from it? They have subsisted, it seems, some how or other; but pray how have they done so, if their organs can find no nutriment in food as it comes to their hands? According to universal testimony, "the ancients lived upon the fruits of trees, upon herbs, roots and seeds, and upon whatever else they could find in the *vegetable kingdom*, that might conduce to the support of life;" and "food of every kind was eaten without being cooked, because there was no fire."* Now the same universal testimony goes to show that these eaters of that in which, according to the very recent discovery of a young medical man in New England, the human organs "can find no nutriment," lived almost a thousand years. Did they live without nutriment? Or were they nourished by air only? The friends of dietetic reform have been ridiculed as desirous of bringing mankind to live on air, washed down with cold water; but it seems that the ancients went much farther, and subsisted, not for a short time merely, but for a thousand years or so, on air *without* water.

Have those persons among us, who have made the experiment of subsisting, for a long time, and to a very great extent, on eggs, milk, corn, wheat, apples, peas, peaches, strawberries, plums, &c., uncooked; have these persons been mistaken in the idea that they were deriving nutriment from them? Has all been imaginary, wholly so? Or will it be said that these are not purely natural food, for they are the results, in some cases, of domestication, and in the others of civilization? Admit the latter—deny, if you please, the validity of this latter part of the argument; still the former remains—men have lived in the first ages for hundreds of years on substances which it is said, now-a-days, contain no nutriment.

But your correspondent proceeds to set aside this argument—or, in his own very modest language, to order the naturalist "off the stand."

* See Jahn's Archæology, Chap. ix. Sec. 136 and 137.—Observe, if you please, that the ancients drew their support, for the long period of almost a thousand years, from the *vegetable kingdom*; nothing being said of animals.

He is for resting the question, in regard to natural food, on careful observation and experiment. I am glad of it. But let us pursue his train of argument, if argument it may justly be regarded. "If animal food is injurious in its effects—the root of all evil, in the words of Dr. Alcott—the fact must be proved by watching its effects; and this not in one instance only, but in numerous cases, and in a variety of circumstances, and on a large scale." Precisely the ground I wish to have taken; though, by the way, I have never said that animal food is "*the* root of all evil." But to resume our quotations.

"One would think that animal food had been eaten long and extensively enough to enable us to know its operation on the health. If it is as destructive as some contend, how happens it that those portions of the human family that eat flesh, are, at this moment, farther removed from the point of extinction and degeneracy than any others on the globe? How happens it that the flesh-eating nations of Europe are so far from having *run out*, that they furnish better specimens of fully and perfectly developed men than any other of all the descendants of Adam?" And to conclude, he triumphantly observes, "Let Dr. A. answer these questions."

But to turn his own language against himself, "shall he be allowed to escape in this manner?" Let us substitute the words "spirit" and "spirit-drinking" for "animal food" and "flesh-eating," in the foregoing paragraph, and see how it will read—presuming, by the way, that the writer is a temperance man.

"One would think that spirits had been used long and extensively enough to enable us to know its operation on the health. If it is as destructive as some contend, how happens it that those portions of the human family which drink spirits are, at this moment, farther removed from the point of extinction and degeneracy than any others on the globe? How happens it that the spirit-drinking nations of Europe are so far from having *run out*, that they furnish better specimens of fully and perfectly developed men than any other of all the descendants of Adam?" Let him answer these questions. Shall he be allowed to escape in this manner?

But to be serious. Will it not be seen, most obviously, that a mode of reasoning which proves so much, proves nothing; and will it not therefore be abandoned? For it is not the utility of flesh-eating and spirit-drinking alone, which can be established in this way, but that also of tea and coffee and beer-drinking, tobacco-chewing, snuff-taking, &c.

But how, then, can we prove anything at all, in relation to the subject? it will, perhaps, be asked. To which I only reply, by returning to your correspondent's own ground—not that of observation and experience merely, but that of *careful* observation and experiment. Your correspondent, however, begs the very question in debate, when he assumes that those portions of the human family which eat flesh are at this moment farther removed from the point of extinction and degeneracy than any others on the globe. Is New Holland farther removed from extinction and degeneracy than China—the Patagonians than the South Sea Islanders—the Siberians than the Japanese, &c.?

Our comparisons should be not only on a fair, but liberal scale. It is not fair to compare the hardy *soldiers* of temperate climates with the enervated *citizens* of southern climes—the comparatively virtuous, too, with the exceedingly dissipated and licentious—the European race with the Hindoo. Let us compare Asiatic with Asiatic, African with African, soldier with soldier, laborer with laborer, the inhabitant of the equator with the inhabitant of the equator, &c. Let but a fair comparison be made, one which shall take into consideration all the circumstances, and I have no fear for the results.

Let us compare, I again say, Japan with China and other countries of Southern Asia; and not Britain with Asia. Let us compare South Sea Islander with South Sea Islander; New Hollander with Japanese; Europe with Europe, &c.

Let us take any nation of Europe—I care not if it is England itself. Who are the people, which the class of society, in England, that perform the bulk of the labor, and have done so from generation to generation? Who are they whose families remain the same, without much change from century to century? Assuredly not the high-fed. Not those who eat the most beef and indulge their several appetites the most. On the contrary, it is they who fare rather hard, or who, at least, suppose they fare hard. It is they who live on bread and potatoes, &c., and scarcely get meat at all; or, if at all, not more than once or at most twice a week. But this is more strikingly the fact in the rest of Europe. The peasants who feed on black bread, potatoes and turnips, with, perhaps, a little soup now and then, are the efficient population. They are the people who do the hard work, and whose families neither degenerate nor become extinct. They are the people who have built pyramids and roads and bridges, and fought the world's battles. So it is now; and so it has been, time immemorial.

Compare Japan with New Holland. One of these is about 40 degrees south of the equator; the other as far north of it. The millions of the nation of New Holland have always fed almost wholly on flesh and fish. And yet not a more meagre and wretched race can be found in all Asia; nor a race who seem so stupid and so little likely to derive benefit from civilization and Christianity. While the millions of Japanese in the interior, who for the most part feed on rice and fruit, abhorring all animal food, even milk, are the finest people, intellectually and physically, in all Asia.

But I must not dwell too long on this topic. The proof seems to me already sufficient. We may see from observation, on a large scale, what the natural food of man is. It cannot be flesh meat: it must be farinaceous vegetables and fruits.

By the natural food of man, however—and this should have been said before—I mean not the food which we prefer in a savage state; and herein it is, again, that I am continually misrepresented. I have nothing to do with the savage state—to desire to revert to it myself or drag my fellow creatures thither. Nor do I know what, in this sense, the natural food of man would be. I take man as he is—in a majority of cases, more or less civilized.

Now, then, by the natural food of man, taken as he is, as a race—not as certain fastidious individuals or fastidious ranks or classes may be—I mean that food which is best adapted to the character and condition of man externally, which promotes the most healthy action of all the internal organs, and enables them to fulfil, in the best possible manner, their varied and various functions. I call not that the natural food of man—however it may once have been—which hurries his circulation, disturbs his breathing, checks suddenly or promotes too rapidly the perspiration; or which dims or otherwise disturbs the eye-sight, or causes any other injury. Nothing is better proved than that farinaceous vegetables and fruits are least likely to do this; and that animal food, condiments, crude vegetables, &c., hardly fail to cause more or less disturbance of the kind, if not to induce positive ill health.

But I have dwelt too long, perhaps, on the natural food of man. In my next, which will, I trust, be much shorter, and which will be entitled "Temperance and Excess," I shall endeavor to notice, still farther, your correspondent's errors. W. A. Alcott.

Dedham, Nov., 1839.

CASES OF UTERINE POLYPI.

BY THO. CHADBOURNE, M.D., CONCORD, N. H.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

The history of the following cases would seem to justify the remark often made, that much suffering and protracted disease would be prevented, were we more thoroughly to investigate the nature and causes of our patients' sufferings, before attempting a remedy.

Miss B. R., aged 50, enjoyed good health from childhood till she was 14 years old, when she began to be troubled with obstinate leucorrhœa, and, as she expressed it, "a frequent return of great weakness with color." The catamenial returns were irregular and profuse, appearing at uncertain periods, attended with severe uterine pains, that were always followed with hæmorrhage, sometimes profuse and alarming. Notwithstanding the use of the most powerful astringent injections, and the whole routine of medicines for the "turn of life," there was no improvement. The return of hæmorrhage was more frequent and more profuse, seldom ceasing till faintness supervened, when the uterine pains and flowing subsided at the same time. In November of 1837 I first saw her, in consequence of an unusually severe attack of profuse flooding that followed the usual return of pain. The severity of the pain at this time almost equalled in intensity a violent parturient paroxysm. On examination I found the vagina occupied by a small tumor, not larger than a common-sized pear, the neck of which was firmly embraced by the os uteri, and any attempt to pass the finger around it excited stronger uterine contractions and increased flooding. The whole trouble was now manifest, and the cause of all this protracted suffering seemed easily remedied. The tumor was of a soft, placenta-like substance; the os uteri acting on its neck like a ligature, but not with sufficient

firmness to stop the flow of blood into its substance. The attachment was high up in the uterus. Not having the proper canula with me, I contrived, by means of a straight catheter, to convey a ligature round it, and succeeded in removing it in a week. The operation was troublesome and protracted, on account of the imperfection of the instrument. All her complaints left her without further remedies, and she now (Nov. 1839) enjoys perfect health.

Case 2d. Mrs. S. enjoyed good health till the birth of her last child, in 1823. There was nothing unusual in her labor or "getting up." After weaning her child, her health gradually declined. There was "constant weakness, either with color or without," as she expressed it, attended with much pain. These discharges became profuse and offensive. Her flesh and strength gradually wasted, and she experienced all the sufferings usually attendant on the most severe uterine irritation. In March of the present year (1839), her family physician was called to relieve her of obstruction of urine. On attempting to use the catheter, he found a large tumor occupying the whole pelvis, compressing the urethra, and bearing some resemblance to a child's head in an advanced stage of labor. I did not see the patient till next day. Severe expulsive pains during the night had pressed the tumor hard against the perineum, rendering any attempt to include the whole tumor in a ligature difficult if not impossible. The os uteri could only be reached at one point behind the pubis. How the growth of such a tumor could have continued so many years, and have obtained this enormous size, and its presence be unsuspected, was very surprising. As much of the lower portion of the tumor as could be encircled by a ligature was removed, in about a week. This made room for a successful operation on the remainder. The double canula, armed with a strong ligature, was passed through the os uteri to the fundus. One tube of the instrument was then held stationary by an assistant, while the other was carried round to the other side, thus completely encircling the whole mass. The ligature was tightened daily, and her water drawn off with the catheter night and morning. The discharges for ten days, during its separation, were profuse and offensive. The left leg became affected with phlegmasia dolens, and afforded as perfect a specimen of that disease as is ever met with in puerperal confinement. So large was the tumor, that after the ligature came away, it could not be removed from the pelvis, only in portions, being torn away with the fingers. It is now nine months since the operation. The patient has resumed her usual domestic avocations. On examination, two weeks since, no vestige of the complaint remained. From the nature and appearance of the discharges several weeks after the operation, there is reason to suppose that large masses of diseased substance, not included in the tumor, sloughed off and came away.

Case 3d. Mrs. R., mother of several children, the youngest 10 years of age, never has enjoyed good health since her last confinement. She says that "something was by the side of the child's head that burst when she had a hard pain, and threw blood all over the doctor." After she ceased nursing, the catamenia appeared as usual, but was attended with "great weakness," was less regular in its periods, un-

naturally painful, accompanied with discharges of coagula, and always followed "with an offensive weakness, without color," that did not leave her entirely till another monthly period. This is her own account of herself till October of 1837. The abdomen was now found to be unnaturally prominent, uterus occupying as much space as at the 5th month of pregnancy, but much harder and less elastic. The os uteri was distended to the size of a crown piece, and very tender. The gentlest examination produced a discharge of bloody fœtid matter. Nothing was prescribed but some trifling medicines to improve the general health, and injections to wash away the offensive discharge. I did not see the patient again till August, 1838. Her health had somewhat improved, although the morbid growth within the uterus had increased; the abdomen was more prominent, and a tumor began to protrude from the os uteri, yet the system had so far accommodated itself to this state of affairs that the patient was able to attend to her usual domestic avocations, except during the week of her "monthly turn," when from pain and profuse discharge she was confined to her bed. During the eight months next succeeding this examination she suffered much more from severe uterine irritation. She has accustomed herself to large doses of opium to allay the severity of bearing down pains, and was in the daily use of chloride of soda injections on account of the fœtor of the discharges. On examination of this patient, June 27, 1839, I found a soft tumor protruding from the uterus, apparently the size of a pint measure. Uterus itself hard and distended as a year ago. The gentlest touch of the tumor causes it to bleed. On account of the tenderness and excoriated state of the external parts, the application of a ligature was very painful. The tumor proved to be attached to the uterus by so broad a surface (extending down even to the os uteri), as to oppose a serious obstacle to a successful operation. No part of the tumor within the uterus could be included in the ligature. The portion within the vagina only was removed. The remaining portion was torn and lacerated as much as possible, to destroy its vitality. This was attended with no pain to the patient, and seemed to be followed by the desired effect, as putrid masses, in very fœtid discharges, came away during the next three weeks, and in September, nearly three months after the ligature came away, the os uteri is closed and appears natural. Although the uterus, probably, is not free from morbid growth, yet there is no pain nor leucorrhœa, and the patient enjoys a degree of health and comfort not before experienced for ten years.

Case 4th. Mrs. P. married at the age of 20. After the birth of her first child she was never free from leucorrhœa, with occasional discharges of blood, till a second pregnancy took place. During this state she suffered very much, far more than usual. After the birth of this second child the uterus never resumed its customary unimpregnated size, and she was constantly liable to severe bearing-down sensations, with offensive leucorrhœa, and sometimes bloody discharges. Symptoms of uterine irritation increased to a degree to confine her to her bed a considerable part of the time. Notwithstanding all these unfavorable circumstances, a third pregnancy took place, which, after much suffering,

terminated in the birth of a healthy child. After three months lingering illness, from the same source as heretofore, during which she was unable to sit up but a small part of the time, a substance, she says, dropped from the vagina during severe pain, of the size and shape of a large pear, having a stem to it larger than a goose quill; since which she has enjoyed comparatively good health, all symptoms of uterine disease having left her. The above is the patient's own account of her case.

Concord, N. H., Dec. 4, 1839.

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BOSTON, DECEMBER 11, 1839.

SMALLPOX IN BOSTON.

At the last session of the Massachusetts Legislature, the law, which had been a considerable time in force, that made it imperative on the authorities of towns and cities to place those infected with smallpox, in places remote, with a view to the safety of those who were liable to contract the disease, was repealed, and such patients are now permitted to remain in their own dwellings, wholly regardless of others—the law contemplating the security by vaccination, which is within the reach of every person.

For more than twenty years past, whenever cases of smallpox occurred in this city, they were at once removed to Rainsford Island Hospital, at all seasons; but the community had for a long time manifested a displeasure at this act of forcing people from their comfortable dwellings, to be carried eight miles over the water, in storms, perhaps, interrupted by ice and snows, as frequently happened. Females and young children, who naturally felt the utmost reluctance to such a voyage, and who were known, occasionally, to have suffered intensely from sea-sickness, were as often the subjects of removal as the hardy seaman who was accustomed to the commotion of the surging ocean. The provisions at that hospital are by no means neglected, but are most ample and complete; they are in the best possible condition for seamen—those who have no home. By the laws of the United States, in the government of the marine hospitals on the Atlantic coast, no person laboring under an infectious or contagious malady can be admitted. Thus shut out from the only place which they are accustomed to consider a port in a storm, the support of which is a direct tax on the sailor's earnings, the quarantine regulations of all the seaports in this country have humanely kept the poor seaman's bed always in readiness for occupancy. It was to that establishment that smallpox patients have heretofore been conveyed. But when the statute law on this subject was changed—instead of being circumscribed, as before, cases began to multiply in Boston; and from the first of October to this period, a considerable number have been confined with it. In the month of November there were 15 deaths; and thus far in December, 10 deaths have occurred. Cases of variola have been quite numerous, and may now be considered pretty common.

In every city of the magnitude of this, there is necessarily a multitude of thriftless, broken-down, intemperate individuals, who, on any indispo-

sition which disables them from pursuing their common routine of affairs, by which the bare necessaries of life are procured, must become a public charge. Many such have been the first victims of the present epidemic smallpox. There are the virtuous, industrious poor, too, whose claims for assistance and sympathy are always strong and resistless. Many such, too, have been afflicted; and poverty has been greatly aggravated, in numerous instances, by the inroads of this loathsome distemper, where no precautions had ever been taken to keep it at bay by vaccination. Finally, when the excitement became such that the city government found that it devolved upon the corporation to procure a suitable receptacle for these victims, and it was impossible to obtain the location that was thought most desirable, on account of the exorbitant demand which was made for the use of a building for a pest house, George Parkman, M.D., well known to the profession, offered, most generously, rent free, an admirable place. A smallpox hospital has therefore been organized on the water's edge, through the benevolence of a citizen. When wealth, like his, falls to the keeping of such a man, he may with strict propriety be denominated a public benefactor. The Board of Aldermen appropriated one thousand dollars for the purchase of furniture and such conveniences as might be requisite. To this hospital, in future or for the present winter, all those who ask assistance will be conveyed.

We are continually hearing that very exaggerated accounts of the ravages of smallpox in Boston, are propagated in the country, to the injury of the business of the city. It is said that those who would be glad to be here, are deterred by the horrible recitals that reach them from day to day. That the smallpox is here, cannot be denied—but with a suitable regard to vaccination, and the measures which are now in train by the City Government, the disease will soon be under perfect control, and all occasion for alarm, we apprehend, will entirely subside.

The American Medical Almanac.—Messrs. Marsh, Capen, Lyon & Webb, the publishers, have issued a large and beautifully-printed edition of the Medical Almanac, for 1840, prepared by the editor of this Journal, who has had the assistance of those who were able to furnish such statistical and other important matter, as will greatly enhance its value. Its size has been enlarged, and it now consists of one hundred and fifty-two pages, compactly printed in a small, but clear and distinct type. It is the most perfect medical directory of the United States and the British Provinces that has ever been given to the public; and if sufficient encouragement is given from year to year, it will ultimately become an important book of reference, and a historical record of the profession in all North America.

By consulting an advertisement in this day's Journal, the reader will learn the cost of the volume, and that at a trifling expense he can order it through the mail immediately. Those who may prefer to carry the Almanac in their pockets, as a remembrancer, note book, &c., will doubtless prefer copies bound in the pocket-book form. Copies are already on the way to editors of medical periodicals with whom we exchange—and by the first safe and ready conveyance, they will also be sent to those who have contributed to the pages of the book. The package for Philadelphia, we fear, may possibly have been lost.

Dr. Shattuck's Translation of M. Louis.—The profession of the South should certainly be in possession of this very useful book. The name of the author is a guarantee that it is no common-place affair. This circumstance alone, therefore, should influence those who have any desire to know that great physician's opinion of the yellow fever. With all the medical wisdom of the age—which we are sorry to say is more distinguished for its theories than its monuments of facts—the yellow fever sweeps off its thousands year after year, and no remedy is brought to light. Prejudice against foreigners should be wholly laid aside. If anything valuable can be gleaned from any source, let us have the full benefit of its suggestions. It is acknowledged, by very competent judges, that Dr. Shattuck has made an admirable translation.

Crania Americana.—From the Phrenological Journal, intelligence has reached us that Dr. S. G. Morton's great national work, which has been in progress a considerable time, is finally published. From the specimens which were presented to us some months ago, we are satisfied that there is beauty and accuracy in the execution of the plates, and a profound knowledge of the subject manifested in the text. Gentlemen visiting Boston, who have any curiosity to examine the character and general plan of this truly desirable book, are invited to call. It will interest the anatomist, the archæologist, the painter, and all grades of modern philosophers. The author has a claim upon the literary and scientific public, on the score of industry, separately from all other considerations, many of which are of a high character. His last production, before this, was received with decided marks of approbation, far and wide. A more extended reputation will doubtless grow out of the circulation of the Crania Americana, because it is precisely the thing which intense curiosity will prompt every one to see, of all ages and sexes. When Mr. Fuller was last in Boston, soliciting subscriptions, we fear that he did not have that encouragement which the intrinsic value of Dr. Morton's achievement naturally led him to expect in such a community as this.

Medical Miscellany.—Professor Miller, of Washington city, has been successful in the removal of a large fibro-cartilaginous tumor from the neck of a colored man aged 64. The weight of the tumor, after extirpation, was 7½ lbs.; the circumference of its base, 25 inches; its greatest diameter, 9 inches—its least, 7.—Much diversity of opinion exists among physicians at the South, respecting the use of large doses of quinine in yellow fever. A writer in the Medical Examiner, who advocates this practice, says that in malignant intermittents he has repeatedly known from 20 to 60 grains given with the happiest effect. We have seen a letter from a medical gentleman residing in Mississippi, in which he attributes much of the fatality of the yellow fever in Natchez to the free use of this article.—The following American works are favorably noticed in the last No. of the British and Foreign Medical Review, viz.—Dr. Jackson's Report on Typhoid Fever, Dr. Lee's Human Physiology, Dr. Dunglison's American Medical Library and new Dictionary, and the New York Journal of Medicine.—We perceive that Part VI. of Dr. Copland's Dictionary is just published in London, containing "Inflammation," "Insanity," &c. It will take twenty years from the time of its commencement to complete this work, unless more expedition is used than has thus far been shown—

and who will then finish the American edition, which was paid for in advance by subscribers five or six years ago, is more than we can tell.—Sickness continues at Tampa Bay, Florida, that grave of a multitude of northern men the past season.—The city of Augusta, Geo., lost 240 individuals by the yellow fever, while it remained there. All the cases were near 2000.—Another $1000 has been appropriated by the Mayor and Aldermen for the Insane Hospital at South Boston.

To Correspondents.—Dr. Ingalls's explanatory note; a traveller's letter from Kentucky, with observations on the two medical schools of that State; together with Dr. Hill's singular case of congenital malformation, accompanied by a drawing, and A. B.'s remarks on Dr. Durkee's essay on scrofula, are in progress.

Married,—In Washington city, Frederick B. Cuiver, M.D., of Oldham Co., Ky., to Miss Adelia Kendall, daughter of the Postmaster General.—In Malden, Ephraim Buck, Jr., M.D., of this city, to Miss Jane G. Oakes.—In Roxbury, Charles M. Weeks, M.D., of Greenland, N. H., to Miss Elvina Porter.—In Georgetown, Ky., William J. Barbee, M.D., of Illinois, to Miss Emeline Barbee, of the former place.

Died,—In Hartford, Ct., Dr. Leonard Bacon, 73.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending Dec. 7, 32. Males, 15—females, 17.

Of consumption, 2—epilepsy, 1—diarrhœa, 1—inflammation of the lungs, 1—smallpox, 4—inflammation of the brain, 1—fever, 1—lung fever, 3—intemperance, 1—burn, 1—spasms, 1—apoplexy, 1—laryngeal consumption, 1—typhus, 2—old age, 1—convulsions, 2—dropsy on the brain, 2—infantile, 1—quinsy, 1—fits, 1—slow fever, 1—stillborn, 4.

REGISTER OF THE WEATHER,

Kept at the State Lunatic Hospital, Worcester, Ms. Lat. 42° 15′ 49″. Elevation 483 ft.

1839. Novemb.	THERM'R. Sun r.	THERM'R. 2, P.M.	THERM'R. Sun s.	BAROMETER. Sun r.	BAROMETER. 2, P.M.	BAROMETER. Sun s.	Wind, 2, P.M.	Weather, 2, P.M.	REGIS. THER. 7 A.M.	REGIS. THER. 2 P.M.	Remarks.
1	Frid.	40	41	41	29.34	29.36	29.30	N	Fair	0°		Flying clouds.
2	Satur.	31	41	41	29.38	29.40	29.41	N	Fair			
3	Sun.	35	43	41	29.46	29.48	29.49	N W	Cloudy			
4	Mon.	31	40	38	29.50	29.49	29.49	N W	Fair			
5	Tues.	34	44	42	29.45	29.38	29.35	S E	Fair			High wind and rain in the night.
6	Wed.	42	52	48	28.96	28.88	28.83	S W	Fair			Aurora borealis.
7	Thur.	34	47	41	28.83	28.85	28.93	S W	Fair			High wind.
8	Frid.	36	43	40	29.03	29.06	29.10	W	Fair			High wind, flying clouds, aurora borealis.
9	Satur.	32	40	37	29.29	29.30	29.32	N W	Fair			
10	Sun	30	35	36	29.40	29.43	29.46	N W	Fair			Snow squalls.
11	Mon.	27	43	58	29.54	29.56	29.58	N W	Fair			Aurora borealis.
12	Tues.	25	46	35	29.60	29.59	29.58	N E	Fair			
13	Wed.	34	45	43	29.54	29.52	29.50	S W	Fair			Halo around the moon.
14	Thur.	38	46	45	29.50	29.45	29.36	N E	Rain			Foggy morning.
15	Frid.	54	59	58	29.24	29.23	29.20	S W	Fair			High wind in the night.
16	Satur.	41	47	44	29.52	29.56	29.58	N W	Fair			
17	Sun.	34	47	45	29.67	29.60	29.50	S W	Fair			Moderate rain in the evening.
18	Mon.	38	42	40	29.30	29.15	29.15	N W	Fair			Halo around the moon.
19	Tues.	37	42	38	28.88	28.89	28.89	N W	Fair			Squally.
20	Wed.	28	34	32	29.00	29.05	29.12	N W	Fair			Snow squall in the night.
21	Thur.	21	26	24	29.33	29.44	29.52	N W	Fair			
22	Frid.	20	29	25	29.87	29.96	30.01	N W	Fair			
23	Satur.	17	36	36	30.09	30.04	30.03	N	Fair			Very pleasant day.—Brilliant sur.
24	Sun.	31	38	40	29.90	29.82	29.71	S E	Rain			Warm rain. Stormy night.
25	Mon.	36	50	44	29.33	29.18	29.19	S W	Rain			High wind, great rain—warmer.
26	Tues.	15	22	22	29.50	29.57	29.60	N W	Fair			
27	Wed.	28	32	31	29.75	29.70	29.65	S W	Fair			Splendid sunset.
28	Thur.	28	43	42	29.70	29.71	29.70	S W	Fair			Very pleas. day for Thanksgiving.
29	Frid.	25	43	40	29.70	29.68	29.67	S W	Fair			Pleasant.
30	Satur.	30	47	44	29.65	29.64	29.63	S W	Fair			Pleasant.

The month of November has been very pleasant; the number of fair days is unusual for the season. Little rain has fallen, and the temperature has been mild and agreeable most of the time. The range of the thermometer has been from 15 to 59; of the barometer, from 28.88 to 30.09.

* Our Register Thermometer got injured and obliged us to omit the table of extreme heat and cold.

Medical Advertisements.

THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ALMANAC FOR 1840,

...shed, and may be obtained at the Journal office. This volume is much larger than the first, ...ontents will be found in every respect more complete and useful. Price 75 cents. Copies are ...up in paper covers to be sent by mail, the price of which is 62 1-2 cents. The postage, for less ...n 100 miles, will be only 6 cents—over 100 miles, 10 cents.

Dec. 11.

MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

THE subscribers are associated for the purpose of giving Medical Instruction. Students will be admitted to the medical and surgical departments of the Massachusetts General Hospital, may see cases in one of the Dispensary Districts, and have abundant opportunities for observing the smallpox and varioloid diseases. They will receive clinical instruction upon the cases which they witness and during the interval of the regular lectures at the College, they will receive instruction by lectures and recitations upon the various departments of medical science. Ample opportunities will be afforded for the cultivation of practical anatomy. They have access to a large library, and are provided with a study, free of expense.

Applications may be made to either of the subscribers.

M. S. PERRY, M.D.
H. I. BOWDITCH, M.D.
J. V. C. SMITH, M.D.
H. G. WILEY, M.D.

Oct 9—eop

SCHOOL FOR MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

THE subscribers are associated for receiving pupils, and affording them every facility for obtaining a complete medical education. Their pupils will have access to the medical and surgical practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital, to the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, and to surgical operations in private practice. Instruction will be given by examinations and lectures in the interval of the public lectures at the Medical College. Facilities will be afforded for the prosecution of practical anatomy. A room is provided with books, &c., for the use of the students.

JOHN C. WARREN,
JOHN B. S. JACKSON,
ROBERT W. HOOPER,
J. MASON WARREN.

Oct. 9—tf

PRIVATE MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

THE subscribers are associated for the purpose of giving a complete course of medical instruction. Their pupils will have regular access to the medical and surgical practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital. They will be admitted, also, to the practice of the House of Correction, which constantly presents a large number of important cases, and where opportunities will be afforded for acquiring a practical knowledge of compounding and dispensing medicines. They will be furnished with opportunities for the study of Practical Anatomy, not inferior to any in the country. To the pupils, particularly to those in the last year of their professional studies, facilities will be afforded for acquiring a personal acquaintance with private medical and obstetric practice. Instruction by examinations or lectures will be given in the different branches of medical studies, during the interval between the public lectures of the University. Books, and a room with fire and lights, will be furnished to the students at the expense of the instructers.

GEORGE C. SHATTUCK,
WALTER CHANNING,
JOHN WARE,
GEORGE W. OTIS, Jr.
WINSLOW LEWIS, Jr.

Oct. 31—eptf

TREMONT-STREET MEDICAL SCHOOL.

THE subscribers, at their private medical school in Tremont street, offer the following facilities to professional students.

A daily attendance at the Massachusetts General Hospital, and at the Eye and Ear Infirmary, with frequent opportunities of seeing cases, and surgical operations, in private practice, and in the public dispensaries. Arrangements have been made for affording obstetric practice to a considerable extent under the superintendence of the instructers.

A regular system of instruction by means of lectures and examinations in all the branches of the profession will be pursued throughout the year.

ANATOMY.—Recitations heard by Drs. Reynolds and Holmes. A course of lectures on Surgical Anatomy by Dr. Holmes. Demonstrations and Dissections.

SURGERY.—A complete course of eighty lectures, including diseases of the Eye and Ear, by Dr. Reynolds.

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PHYSIOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY.—Lectures and recitations by Dr. Holmes, including a special course on Auscultation and Percussion.

MIDWIFERY.—Lectures and recitations by Dr. Storer, with practical instruction on the application of obstetrical instruments upon the machine or model.

THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, CLINICAL INSTRUCTION, AND MATERIA MEDICA, under the superintendence of Dr. Bigelow.

JACOB BIGELOW,
EDWARD REYNOLDS,
D. HUMPHREYS STORER,
OLIVER W. HOLMES.

Boston, Nov. 20, 1839. oplmeop6m

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